

and osteopathy] is needless, artificial and untenable and is not supported either by the Philadelphia College of Osteopathy or by the majority of practicing osteopathic physicians."

Further aong, the committee states: "Osteopathic medicine as a cult, that is, in the sense of a concept of a single cause and cure for all disease, has been withdrawn from the current teaching and largely from the practice of osteopathy." These statements concisely argue for the removal of all differences in licensure and in practice between the two disciplines. California has now taken all the steps needed to eliminate these differences. Other states are bound to follow.

There remain several problems to be solved before all differences are completely removed in California. Such questions as component society membership and specialty certification are still to be answered. These matters were recognized at all times during the long planning of the California

unification but were put aside until the more important philosophical and legal aspects could be resolved. Now that the people of the state have spoken, there appears to be ample reason for optimism in the solution of the remaining problems.

Where California has taken the lead, others will follow. Obviously there was much holding of breath in other states while the California program was under way. It is time now for normal respiration to resume.

The former two groups in this state are now one. Together, they comprise an even larger and stronger state association. They have proved that obstacles thrown in the path of progress can be overcome and that good sense, put in its proper light before the people, can be enacted into law.

We wish the best of luck to other states which may seek to solve their own interprofessional problems. We offer our help if it may be useful.

A.M.A. Meets in Los Angeles

MEETING IN LOS ANGELES in the week following Thanksgiving Day, the American Medical Association set a new record for its clinical session and, despite dour predictions that the meeting would accomplish nothing, gave evidence that the organization was going forward on both scientific and socio-economic fronts.

More than 5,200 physicians and more than 4,200 guests were registered, both new highs. With the addition of industrial exhibitors and their guests, total registration amounted to 10,908.

On the scientific front, the A.M.A. made a series of announcements which indicate that the organization is returning to its normal stride of more than a century in the advancement of the science and art of medicine and the protection of the public health.

Founded in 1847 for these purposes, the organization existed until 1949 without assessing any dues against its members and with a minimum of attention paid to any matters, public or legislative, that were at all outside the field of medicine and medical practice. The A.M.A. was, without doubt, a tremendous postgraduate training institute.

In 1949 it became obvious that political and other bodies were intent on chipping away at the science and art of medicine in promoting and sponsoring legislation ostensibly aimed at solving the economic problems of people but exerting great forces to disrupt the orderly scientific progress which had been the organization's privilege and history for more than a century.

With the rather abrupt entry of the A.M.A. into legislative and socio-economic fields, the organization became the butt of propaganda generated by persons and groups with political axes to grind and the individual physician, while still commanding the respect of former years, suffered a decline in his position because he was a member of the nationwide group.

The new plans of the A.M.A. call for a resurgence of the science and art of the profession, a move which is bound to find reflection in the public press. In turn, the favorable aspects of scientific advances will tend to restore the old and familiar picture of the physician as both healer and friend.

Doctor Hugh Hussey, dean of the school of medicine at Georgetown University and former chairman of the A.M.A. Board of Trustees, has been selected to carry on the new program. His choice appears excellent and we wish him well.

On the business side of the Los Angeles meeting, approval was given to several California suggestions for improved methods of financing health care for aged or other groups of needy citizens. California's proposals suggested that Kerr-Mills supporting legislation be pushed in all states and improved in those states where deficiencies had appeared. California also suggested that tax deductions or credits be made to aged persons or to those meeting the health care costs of those over 65 years.

The California resolutions were not acted upon directly but their substance was incorporated in a supplementary report of the board of trustees which was approved by the House of Delegates.

Some question has been raised as to whether the supplementary report of the board was prepared before or after the California resolutions had been introduced. In any event, the House of Delegates has approved these suggestions as policy to be followed by the A.M.A. The difference between approving a report and adopting a resolution lies in the measure of authority carried by the proposed program. Whereas a House of Delegates action is tantamount to an order by the legislative body, a board report accepted by the house is a less insistent form of policy approved, with no machinery for enforcement.

The House of Delegates also approved bylaw amendments which increase the size of the Board of Trustees. This proposal, also made by California in 1961, was the subject of study by a special committee which recommended increasing the board from 11 to 15 members by the addition of three elected members as well as the immediate past president of the association. This makes a total of 15 members, 12 elected and the president, president-elect and the

immediate past president. This recommendation was approved by the House of Delegates.

A companion measure, a constitutional amendment which would reduce the term of office of board members from five to three years, failed of adoption when, late in the meeting, the number of voting members of the House of Delegates in attendance dropped considerably. Constitutional amendments require a two-thirds affirmative vote of all registered voting members, not just those present and voting, and this amendment just missed that requirement. It will be voted on again in June, as the first order of business of the House.

There remains in the minds of many delegates and others the question of whether or not the clinical sessions of the A.M.A. are really necessary. This question has been raised in the past several years and some day will doubtless come up for a decisive vote. Meanwhile, the Los Angeles meeting did indicate some signs of progress and did attract a large attendance.

